



Native Grasses

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

BARNWELL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2007 Cooperator of the Year

The Barnwell Conservation District held their annual Awards Luncheon at the Winton Inn restaurant on April 23, 2008. The District selected Walker Nix as the 2007



Cooperator of the Year for his dedication to farming and natural resource conservation.

Walker Nix was recognized as a

farmer who has conserved soil on his farm by strip-till planting all of his crops. He uses nutrient and pest management practices that have crop production and conservation benefits. He also follows a waste management plan for the poultry production facilities on his farm.



Walker Nix (left) accepts the 2007 Cooperator of the Year plaque from Commissioner Brenda Nettles and Chairman James Riley Hill.

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A Tree for Farmers

The Barnwell USDA Service Center partners decorated a unique Christmas tree with peanuts attached to red ribbon, soybeans, corn husks, wheat, corn cob angels, cotton, and other farm materials. Cows, chickens, and pigs made from bells were also added to the tree.

Farm Service Agency employees and the Barnwell District employee provided goodie bags for the farmers visiting the USDA Service Center during the holiday season.



BSWCD Board of Commissioners

The Barnwell Conservation District is managed by a five-member board. These individuals serve as Conservation District Commissioners and are non-salaried officials. Three of these Commissioners are elected in the general election and two are appointed by DNR Land, Water, and Conservation Division Advisory Committee and the SC Department of Natural Resources. The Barnwell District has a Chaplain and one Associate Commissioner.



Above insert photo is Commissioner Michael J. Sullivan. Group photo from left to right: Commissioner Rebecca H. Davis, Commissioner Brenda H. Nettles, and Associate Commissioner Samuel Bush. Back row left to right: Vice-Chairman Thomas O. Sanders, III, Chaplain Rev. Frederick B. Orr, and Chairman James Riley Hill.

Technical Staff

Individuals assisting the Barnwell Conservation District as technical staff are the following: USDA-NRCS District Conservationist Wilfred Pace, NRCS Resource Conservationist Mike Lott, NRCS Soil Conservation Technicians Tommy Smoak & Merle Diem, DNR/NRCS Wildlife Biologist Cory Drennan, DNR Program Specialist Harry Doswell, and Administrative Assistant Linda Pickering.

2007 Affiliate Members

Bronze (\$50)

Adam's Nursery & Landscaping
AgSouth Farm Credit
Barnwell Service Center
Citizens Choice Agency
Clarendon Farms, LLC
Dr. Henry W. Gibson
Energy Solutions
Enterprise Bank
First Citizens Bank
Ivy Garden Club
Mexico Bay Farm
Palmetto Irrigation, Inc.
Phil Sandifer & Sons Farms
Phillip G. Croft
Rainbow Oil, Inc.
Robert A. Bates, Jr.
Salkehatchie Coon Hunters Assoc.
SC Electric & Gas/SCANA
The Mosteller Law Firm LLC
Thomas O. Sanders, III
Thomas Properties
Town of Blackville
Wildwood Garden Club
Williams Farm & Garden Center

Silver (\$75)

Berley's Pharmacy
Farm Bureau Federation
J & K Farms, Inc.

Gold (\$100)

CFP Enterprises LLP
Clariant Corporation
Edisto Electric Cooperative
Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Fickling
National Beverage Screen Printers
Stephan Wiles

Platinum (\$200+)

Amick Farms LLC
Senator Brad Hutto
The Hartzog Foundation

Platinum Plus (\$1,000+)

Wal-Mart Store

See back page for more information on how to become an affiliate member.

 **Thank You!**



Hedgerow

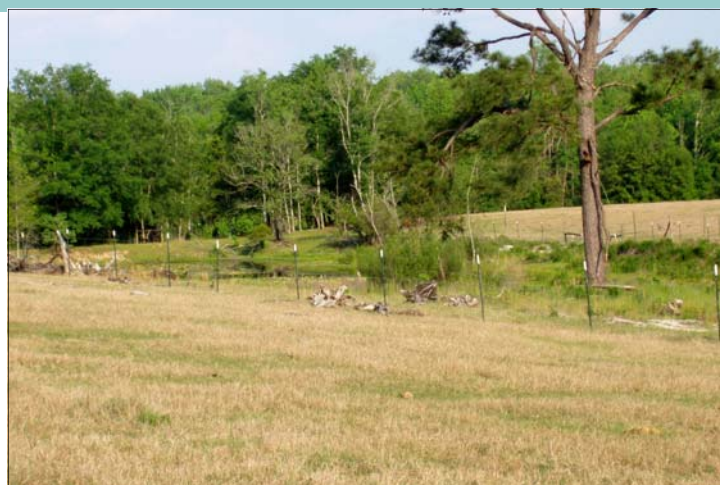
Hedgerows have been established on Bob Sanders' farm. A hedgerow is a strip of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation with a minimum width of 25 feet. They provide food and cover for wildlife, reduce wind erosion, and protect adjacent crops from blowing sand.



Native Grasses

A native warm season grass mixture of Switchgrass, Little Bluestem, and Coastal Panicgrass was planted by Greg Bates at Tinker Creek Plantation. Native warm season grasses are bunch grasses that grow upright leaving bare ground in between the clumps of grass. For ground feeding wildlife such as quail, this allows easy movement and facilitates food searching on the bare ground. The grasses also provide quality nest sites and overhead protection from predators.

Measures 2007	Acres
Conservation Planning Completed	4,967
Grazing land with Conservation Applied	578
Land Treated for Fish & Wildlife Habitat	1,190
Cropland with Conservation Applied	2,780



Fencing

Fencing was installed by Obie Still on his beef cattle farm to limit livestock access to a pond. A well, pipeline, and stock-water tanks are also being installed to provide clean drinking water for the cattle and facilitate a rotational grazing system. These practices enhance forage and livestock production while improving soil and water quality.



Residue Management

This photo shows cotton that 2007 District Cooperator of the Year Walker Nix strip-till planted into residue from the previous cotton crop. Strip-till and no-till are the residue management practices now commonly used by Barnwell County farmers. These practices reduce water and wind erosion while improving water quality, soil quality, air quality, and wildlife habitat.

Conservation Accomplishments

◀ Listed are some of the conservation accomplishments for the Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The planning and application of conservation practices in 2007 demonstrates the conservation commitment of county farmers and landowners.

4-H₂O Pontoon Day Camp



The Barnwell Conservation District co-sponsored with Clemson Extension 4-H a three day water camp called "4-H₂O Pontoon Camp". Activities the first day was held at the Barnwell State Park with children making Secchi disks to measure water depth, stream assessment on microscopic findings with Laura Brown (Clemson University), and boater safety (DNR). The second day consisted of a Pontoon ride on Lake Edgar Brown, testing water quality, measuring depth, a ride on the shock-boat, and hands-on fish dissecting by the DNR Fish Hatchery. On the third day, campers returned to the State Park to learn all about watersheds and how to keep them clean. The camp concluded with a tour of the park's nature trail led by the State Park's superintendent. Harry Doswell (DNR) identified plants and trees along the trail. One camper discovered an abandoned alligator egg near the park's pond. Linda Pickering, Cory Drennan, and Harry Doswell assisted with the three day camp and presented programs.

Carolina Coastal Adventure Workshop

The Barnwell District accepted applications to the Carolina Coastal Adventure Workshop held at Santee Cooper's Somerset facility on Lake Moultrie in Moncks Corner, S.C. Students that are interested in exploring the water resources of the Palmetto State for a weekend were encouraged to apply. The workshop was open to all 9th and 10th grade students.

Barnwell High School delegate Denis Pressley was sponsored by the Barnwell Conservation District. The District paid his \$50 registration fee.

The Carolina Coastal Adventure Workshop is held in October of each year. Applications are available through the Barnwell Conservation District office, and copies are made available to the school guidance counselors.

Contact our office at 803-259-7144 for more information on our workshops for high school students.



Department of Natural Resources Director Lindsay Fairchild and Denis Pressley - 10th grade student at Barnwell High School.



8th Grade—(Left to right): Tyler Priester (1st place), Jamie Strock (2nd place), and Adam McCurry (3rd place). All Barnwell Guinyard Butler Middle School students.



7th Grade—(Left to right): Krista Carroll (3rd place), Ryan Norris (1st place), and Jacob Brumit (2nd place). All Barnwell Guinyard-Butler Middle School students.



6th Grade—Raven Woods (1st place), Jo Rogers (2nd place), and Heather M. Still (3rd place). All Blackville-Macedonia Elementary School students.

The Barnwell District sponsored their annual Conservation Essay and Poster contests for area schools.

The 2007 contests were titled "Wetlands are Wonderful". Essays and class posters focused on one type of wetland. Guideline topics included the following: What is a wetland? What does a wetland do for people or animals? Does a wetland provide food or shelter? What kind of animals may you find in a wetland?



5th Grade—Tamia Smalls (1st place), Nijel Johnson (2nd place), and Andre Jones (3rd place). Blackville-Macedonia students.

The District's annual Essay Contest was open to 5-8th grade students (public and private schools). Essays were judged within each grade level. The Barnwell District awarded first place essay winners with a cash prize, trophy, and certificate. Second and third place winners received a trophy and certificate.

The annual Poster Contest was open to K-4th grades (including Special Education K-4 classes). Posters were a class/group effort and illustrate the students' artistic talent along with a brief description of a wetland. Class winner received \$30 from the Barnwell District.

The District received 11 class posters and 47 essays from Barnwell County schools.

For more information on the District's Conservation Essay/Poster contests, please contact our office at 803-259-7144.



2007 Class Poster Winner

Saltwater Marsh

Ms. Christina Snider's fourth grade (4S Class) from Blackville-Macedonia Elementary School.

Educational Programs



The Cubbies "Awana Club" at Ashleigh Baptist Church displayed their colored leaf rubbings after Administrative Assistant Linda Pickering presented a program on "Working Trees".

"EDUCATING
BARNWELL
COUNTY
CITIZENS ON THE
IMPORTANCE OF
CONSERVING
NATURAL
RESOURCES."



Sixth grade students learn about the water cycle during the "Incredible Journey" program at Blackville Macedonia Elementary.



Wonderful World of Wildflowers Presentation- Barnwell Primary school

In 2007 -
The Barnwell District presented 63 programs in schools, churches, clubs, and other organizations.



Wildlife in South Carolina Presentation
Second grade Kelly Edwards Elementary students identified animal tracks and matched wildlife to their habitats.

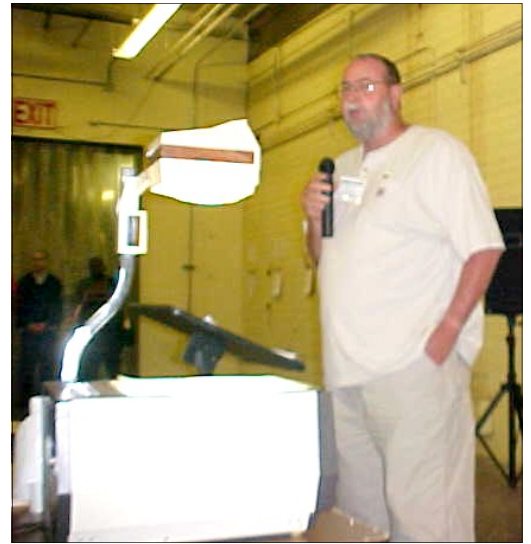


DNR Coordinator Harry Doswell and Commissioner Nettles assisted Barnwell Primary first grade students with colored wildflower rubbings.





Volunteer Sheila Boots and Science Coordinator Sally Fickling assisted students in making edible soil profiles. The District presented the "S.K. Worm" soils presentation for third grade Kelly Edwards Elementary students.



Commissioner Michael J. Sullivan presented a program on insects at the Barnwell Milliken plant during their Safety Day.



Sixth grade students at Barnwell Elementary School learn about decomposition during the District's "Talking Trash" program on recycling, littering, and composting.

SC Institute of →
Natural Resource
Conservation at
Lander University -
Workshops are
available through
the District for
area high school
students inter-
ested in natural
resources.



Chairman Hill presented a program on "Backyard Conservation" for the Blackville Garden Club at the Edisto Blackville Heritage Center.



Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District

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Address:

2008 AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

(If you are not already an affiliate member please complete this form and become a member)

The Commissioners of the Barnwell Soil and Water Conservation District are committed to helping educate Barnwell County's children and landowners about our natural resources. It is our goal that land-users and students develop an understanding of inter-relationships of man, water, soil, air and wildlife.

The Barnwell District is a *non-profit organization* that depends on financial support from Affiliate Members. Through your donation, the District is better able to promote conservation in all schools in the county and sponsor the various programs available to promote conservation stewardship within Barnwell County.

____ Bronze (\$50)

____ Silver (\$75)

____ Gold (\$100)

____ Platinum (\$200 or more)

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE/FAX